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March 24, 2023

Via ECF

Honorable Ronnie Abrams
United States District Judge
United States District Court
Southern District of New York
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse
40 Foley Square
New York, New York 10007

Re: Haynes, et al. v. EIA Electric Inc., et al.
Docket No.: 22-cv-8645-RA

The Court thanks Defendants for the update. Within one month of the completion of the bankruptcy proceedings, the parties shall file a joint letter updating the Court on the status of this action and proposing next steps.

SO ORDERED.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R. Abrams', is written over a horizontal line.

Hon. Ronnie Abrams
March 27, 2023

Dear Judge Abrams:

This firm represents Defendants EIA Electric, Inc., Matthew Orent, David Engel and George Engel. We write to inform the Court that Defendant David Engel has filed a petition for bankruptcy under Title 11 of the United States Code in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida. Attached is the correspondence I received from David Engel as well as Official Form 101 of his bankruptcy filing. Pursuant to this filing and 11 U.S.C. section 362, there is an automatic stay of the above-referenced action.

We thank Your Honor very much for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/David R. Ehrlich

David R. Ehrlich

DRE\sh
enclosure

cc: D. Maimon Kirschenbaum, Esq.
Lucas C. Buzzard, Esq.
Joseph & Kirschenbaum LLP

David Ehrlich

From: David Engel <engel.david@live.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2023 5:13 PM
To: kamini@kfoxlaw.com; David Ehrlich
Subject: URGENT: SUGGESTION OF BANKRUPTCY / IN RE DAVID ENGEL

Importance: High

Please be advised of the below...

SUGGESTION OF BANKRUPTCY

Defendant(s), DAVID ENGEL, show(s) that Defendant(s) has/have filed a petition for relief under Title 11, United States Code, in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida that has been assigned case number 23-11822-MAM with relief ordered on March 8, 2023, and suggests that the instant action has been stayed by the operation of Title 11 U.S.C. §362, Automatic Stay.

This Suggestion of Bankruptcy shall not be construed or act as a Notice of Appearance on behalf of the undersigned for the Defendant in the above-styled state court case; however, undersigned counsel does hereby request continued notice on all future filings therein.

The undersigned certifies that a copy hereof has been furnished on March 9, 2023 to Thompson Coburn Hahn & Hessen LLP via email to John P. Amato, jamato@thompsoncoburn.com, and Brigitte R. Rose, brose@thompsoncoburn.com.

FLORIDA BANKRUPTCY ADVISORS, P.L.

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By: 

Christian Panagakos
Florida Bar No. 065579
cp@floridabankruptcyadvisors.com

Respectfully,

Christian



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Please be advised that this law firm may be acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt and any information provided will be used for that purpose.

Fill in this information to identify your case:

United States Bankruptcy Court for the:

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Case number (if known)

Chapter you are filing under:

- ☒ Chapter 7
- ☐ Chapter 11
- ☐ Chapter 12
- ☐ Chapter 13

☐ Check if this is an
amended filing

Official Form 101

Voluntary Petition for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy

12/22

The bankruptcy forms use *you* and *Debtor 1* to refer to a debtor filing alone. A married couple may file a bankruptcy case together—called a *joint* case—and in joint cases, these forms use *you* to ask for information from both debtors. For example, if a form asks, “Do you own a car,” the answer would be yes if either debtor owns a car. When information is needed about the spouses separately, the form uses *Debtor 1* and *Debtor 2* to distinguish between them. In joint cases, one of the spouses must report information as *Debtor 1* and the other as *Debtor 2*. The same person must be *Debtor 1* in all of the forms.

Be as complete and accurate as possible. If two married people are filing together, both are equally responsible for supplying correct information. If more space is needed, attach a separate sheet to this form. On the top of any additional pages, write your name and case number (if known). Answer every question.

Part 1: Identify Yourself

About Debtor 1:

About Debtor 2 (Spouse Only in a Joint Case):

1. Your full name

Write the name that is on your government-issued picture identification (for example, your driver's license or passport).

Bring your picture identification to your meeting with the trustee.

David

First name

Middle name

Engel

Last name and Suffix (Sr., Jr., II, III)

First name

Middle name

Last name and Suffix (Sr., Jr., II, III)

2. All other names you have used in the last 8 years

Include your married or maiden names and any assumed, trade names and *doing business as* names.

Do NOT list the name of any separate legal entity such as a corporation, partnership, or LLC that is not filing this petition.

David Stuart Engel
David S. Engel

3. Only the last 4 digits of your Social Security number or federal Individual Taxpayer Identification number (ITIN)

xxx-xx-9499

Debtor 1 **David Engel**

Case number (if known)

About Debtor 1:

About Debtor 2 (Spouse Only in a Joint Case):

4. Your Employer Identification Number (EIN), if any.

EIN

EIN

5. Where you live

**1900 Corsica Drive
Wellington, FL 33414**

Number, Street, City, State & ZIP Code

Palm Beach

County

If your mailing address is different from the one above, fill it in here. Note that the court will send any notices to you at this mailing address.

Number, P.O. Box, Street, City, State & ZIP Code

If Debtor 2 lives at a different address:

Number, Street, City, State & ZIP Code

County

If Debtor 2's mailing address is different from yours, fill it in here. Note that the court will send any notices to this mailing address.

Number, P.O. Box, Street, City, State & ZIP Code

6. Why you are choosing this district to file for bankruptcy

Check one:

- ☒ Over the last 180 days before filing this petition, I have lived in this district longer than in any other district.
- ☐ I have another reason.
Explain. (See 28 U.S.C. § 1408.)

Check one:

- ☐ Over the last 180 days before filing this petition, I have lived in this district longer than in any other district.
- ☐ I have another reason.
Explain. (See 28 U.S.C. § 1408.)

Debtor 1 **David Engel**

Case number (if known) _____

Part 2: Tell the Court About Your Bankruptcy Case

7. **The chapter of the Bankruptcy Code you are choosing to file under** ☒ Check one. (For a brief description of each, see *Notice Required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b) for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy (Form 2010)*). Also, go to the top of page 1 and check the appropriate box.
- ☐ Chapter 7
- ☐ Chapter 11
- ☐ Chapter 12
- ☐ Chapter 13
-
8. **How you will pay the fee** ☒ **I will pay the entire fee when I file my petition.** Please check with the clerk's office in your local court for more details about how you may pay. Typically, if you are paying the fee yourself, you may pay with cash, cashier's check, or money order. If your attorney is submitting your payment on your behalf, your attorney may pay with a credit card or check with a pre-printed address.
- ☐ **I need to pay the fee in installments.** If you choose this option, sign and attach the *Application for Individuals to Pay The Filing Fee in Installments* (Official Form 103A).
- ☐ **I request that my fee be waived** (You may request this option only if you are filing for Chapter 7. By law, a judge may, but is not required to, waive your fee, and may do so only if your income is less than 150% of the official poverty line that applies to your family size and you are unable to pay the fee in installments). If you choose this option, you must fill out the *Application to Have the Chapter 7 Filing Fee Waived* (Official Form 103B) and file it with your petition.
-
9. **Have you filed for bankruptcy within the last 8 years?** ☒ No.
- ☐ Yes.
- | | | |
|----------------|------------|-------------------|
| District _____ | When _____ | Case number _____ |
| District _____ | When _____ | Case number _____ |
| District _____ | When _____ | Case number _____ |
-
10. **Are any bankruptcy cases pending or being filed by a spouse who is not filing this case with you, or by a business partner, or by an affiliate?** ☒ No.
- ☐ Yes.
- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Debtor _____ | Relationship to you _____ |
| District _____ When _____ | Case number, if known _____ |
| Debtor _____ | Relationship to you _____ |
| District _____ When _____ | Case number, if known _____ |
-
11. **Do you rent your residence?** ☒ No. Go to line 12.
- ☐ Yes. Has your landlord obtained an eviction judgment against you?
- ☐ No. Go to line 12.
- ☐ Yes. Fill out *Initial Statement About an Eviction Judgment Against You* (Form 101A) and file it as part of this bankruptcy petition.

Debtor 1 **David Engel**

Case number (if known) _____

Part 3: Report About Any Businesses You Own as a Sole Proprietor**12. Are you a sole proprietor of any full- or part-time business?**

- ☒ No. Go to Part 4.
- ☐ Yes. Name and location of business

A sole proprietorship is a business you operate as an individual, and is not a separate legal entity such as a corporation, partnership, or LLC.

If you have more than one sole proprietorship, use a separate sheet and attach it to this petition.

Name of business, if any _____

Number, Street, City, State & ZIP Code _____

Check the appropriate box to describe your business:

- ☐ Health Care Business (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(27A))
- ☐ Single Asset Real Estate (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(51B))
- ☐ Stockbroker (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(53A))
- ☐ Commodity Broker (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(6))
- ☐ None of the above

13. Are you filing under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, and are you a small business debtor or a debtor as defined by 11 U.S.C. § 1182(1)?

For a definition of *small business debtor*, see 11 U.S.C. § 101(51D).

If you are filing under Chapter 11, the court must know whether you are a small business debtor or a debtor choosing to proceed under Subchapter V so that it can set appropriate deadlines. If you indicate that you are a small business debtor or you are choosing to proceed under Subchapter V, you must attach your most recent balance sheet, statement of operations, cash-flow statement, and federal income tax return or if any of these documents do not exist, follow the procedure in 11 U.S.C. § 1116(1)(B).

- ☒ No. I am not filing under Chapter 11.
- ☐ No. I am filing under Chapter 11, but I am NOT a small business debtor according to the definition in the Bankruptcy Code.
- ☐ Yes. I am filing under Chapter 11, I am a small business debtor according to the definition in the Bankruptcy Code, and I do not choose to proceed under Subchapter V of Chapter 11.
- ☐ Yes. I am filing under Chapter 11, I am a debtor according to the definition in § 1182(1) of the Bankruptcy Code, and I choose to proceed under Subchapter V of Chapter 11.

Part 4: Report if You Own or Have Any Hazardous Property or Any Property That Needs Immediate Attention**14. Do you own or have any property that poses or is alleged to pose a threat of imminent and identifiable hazard to public health or safety? Or do you own any property that needs immediate attention?**

- ☒ No.
- ☐ Yes. What is the hazard? _____
- If immediate attention is needed, why is it needed? _____

For example, do you own perishable goods, or livestock that must be fed, or a building that needs urgent repairs?

Where is the property? _____

Number, Street, City, State & Zip Code _____

Debtor 1 **David Engel**

Case number (if known)

Part 5: Explain Your Efforts to Receive a Briefing About Credit Counseling**15. Tell the court whether you have received a briefing about credit counseling.**

The law requires that you receive a briefing about credit counseling before you file for bankruptcy. You must truthfully check one of the following choices. If you cannot do so, you are not eligible to file.

If you file anyway, the court can dismiss your case, you will lose whatever filing fee you paid, and your creditors can begin collection activities again.

About Debtor 1:

You must check one:

- ☒ **I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, and I received a certificate of completion.**

Attach a copy of the certificate and the payment plan, if any, that you developed with the agency.

- ☐ **I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, but I do not have a certificate of completion.**

Within 14 days after you file this bankruptcy petition, you **MUST** file a copy of the certificate and payment plan, if any.

- ☐ **I certify that I asked for credit counseling services from an approved agency, but was unable to obtain those services during the 7 days after I made my request, and exigent circumstances merit a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement.**

To ask for a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement, attach a separate sheet explaining what efforts you made to obtain the briefing, why you were unable to obtain it before you filed for bankruptcy, and what exigent circumstances required you to file this case.

Your case may be dismissed if the court is dissatisfied with your reasons for not receiving a briefing before you filed for bankruptcy. If the court is satisfied with your reasons, you must still receive a briefing within 30 days after you file. You must file a certificate from the approved agency, along with a copy of the payment plan you developed, if any. If you do not do so, your case may be dismissed.

Any extension of the 30-day deadline is granted only for cause and is limited to a maximum of 15 days.

- ☐ **I am not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling because of:**
- ☐ **Incapacity.**
I have a mental illness or a mental deficiency that makes me incapable of realizing or making rational decisions about finances.
- ☐ **Disability.**
My physical disability causes me to be unable to participate in a briefing in person, by phone, or through the internet, even after I reasonably tried to do so.
- ☐ **Active duty.**
I am currently on active military duty in a military combat zone.

If you believe you are not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling, you must file a motion for waiver credit counseling with the court.

About Debtor 2 (Spouse Only in a Joint Case):

You must check one:

- ☐ **I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, and I received a certificate of completion.**

Attach a copy of the certificate and the payment plan, if any, that you developed with the agency.

- ☐ **I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, but I do not have a certificate of completion.**

Within 14 days after you file this bankruptcy petition, you **MUST** file a copy of the certificate and payment plan, if any.

- ☐ **I certify that I asked for credit counseling services from an approved agency, but was unable to obtain those services during the 7 days after I made my request, and exigent circumstances merit a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement.**

To ask for a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement, attach a separate sheet explaining what efforts you made to obtain the briefing, why you were unable to obtain it before you filed for bankruptcy, and what exigent circumstances required you to file this case.

Your case may be dismissed if the court is dissatisfied with your reasons for not receiving a briefing before you filed for bankruptcy.

If the court is satisfied with your reasons, you must still receive a briefing within 30 days after you file. You must file a certificate from the approved agency, along with a copy of the payment plan you developed, if any. If you do not do so, your case may be dismissed.

Any extension of the 30-day deadline is granted only for cause and is limited to a maximum of 15 days.

- ☐ **I am not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling because of:**
- ☐ **Incapacity.**
I have a mental illness or a mental deficiency that makes me incapable of realizing or making rational decisions about finances.
- ☐ **Disability.**
My physical disability causes me to be unable to participate in a briefing in person, by phone, or through the internet, even after I reasonably tried to do so.
- ☐ **Active duty.**
I am currently on active military duty in a military combat zone.

If you believe you are not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling, you must file a motion for waiver of credit counseling with the court.

Debtor 1 **David Engel**

Case number (if known)

Part 6: Answer These Questions for Reporting Purposes

16. What kind of debts do you have?
- 16a. Are your debts primarily consumer debts? *Consumer debts* are defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(8) as "incurred by an individual primarily for a personal, family, or household purpose."
- ☒ No. Go to line 16b.
- ☐ Yes. Go to line 17.
- 16b. Are your debts primarily business debts? *Business debts* are debts that you incurred to obtain money for a business or investment or through the operation of the business or investment.
- ☐ No. Go to line 16c.
- ☒ Yes. Go to line 17.
- 16c. State the type of debts you owe that are not consumer debts or business debts
-
17. Are you filing under Chapter 7?
- ☐ No. I am not filing under Chapter 7. Go to line 18.
- Do you estimate that after any exempt property is excluded and administrative expenses are paid that funds will be available for distribution to unsecured creditors?
- ☒ Yes. I am filing under Chapter 7. Do you estimate that after any exempt property is excluded and administrative expenses are paid that funds will be available to distribute to unsecured creditors?
- ☒ No
- ☐ Yes
-
18. How many Creditors do you estimate that you owe?
- ☐ 1-49 ☐ 1,000-5,000 ☐ 25,001-50,000
- ☐ 50-99 ☐ 5001-10,000 ☐ 50,001-100,000
- ☐ 100-199 ☐ 10,001-25,000 ☐ More than 100,000
- ☒ 200-999
-
19. How much do you estimate your assets to be worth?
- ☐ \$0 - \$50,000 ☐ \$1,000,001 - \$10 million ☐ \$500,000,001 - \$1 billion
- ☐ \$50,001 - \$100,000 ☐ \$10,000,001 - \$50 million ☐ \$1,000,000,001 - \$10 billion
- ☐ \$100,001 - \$500,000 ☐ \$50,000,001 - \$100 million ☐ \$10,000,000,001 - \$50 billion
- ☒ \$500,001 - \$1 million ☐ \$100,000,001 - \$500 million ☐ More than \$50 billion
-
20. How much do you estimate your liabilities to be?
- ☐ \$0 - \$50,000 ☒ \$1,000,001 - \$10 million ☐ \$500,000,001 - \$1 billion
- ☐ \$50,001 - \$100,000 ☐ \$10,000,001 - \$50 million ☐ \$1,000,000,001 - \$10 billion
- ☐ \$100,001 - \$500,000 ☐ \$50,000,001 - \$100 million ☐ \$10,000,000,001 - \$50 billion
- ☐ \$500,001 - \$1 million ☐ \$100,000,001 - \$500 million ☐ More than \$50 billion

Part 7: Sign Below

For you

I have examined this petition, and I declare under penalty of perjury that the information provided is true and correct.

If I have chosen to file under Chapter 7, I am aware that I may proceed, if eligible, under Chapter 7, 11, 12, or 13 of title 11, United States Code. I understand the relief available under each chapter, and I choose to proceed under Chapter 7.

If no attorney represents me and I did not pay or agree to pay someone who is not an attorney to help me fill out this document, I have obtained and read the notice required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b).

I request relief in accordance with the chapter of title 11, United States Code, specified in this petition.

I understand making a false statement, concealing property, or obtaining money or property by fraud in connection with a bankruptcy case can result in fines up to \$250,000, or imprisonment for up to 20 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 1341, 1519, and 3571.

/s/ David Engel

David Engel

Signature of Debtor 1

Signature of Debtor 2

Executed on **March 8, 2023**
MM / DD / YYYYExecuted on
MM / DD / YYYY

Debtor 1 **David Engel**

Case number (if known)

For your attorney, if you are represented by one

If you are not represented by an attorney, you do not need to file this page.

I, the attorney for the debtor(s) named in this petition, declare that I have informed the debtor(s) about eligibility to proceed under Chapter 7, 11, 12, or 13 of title 11, United States Code, and have explained the relief available under each chapter for which the person is eligible. I also certify that I have delivered to the debtor(s) the notice required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b) and, in a case in which § 707(b)(4)(D) applies, certify that I have no knowledge after an inquiry that the information in the schedules filed with the petition is incorrect.

/s/ Christian Panagakos

Date

March 8, 2023

Signature of Attorney for Debtor

MM / DD / YYYY

Christian Panagakos 065579

Printed name

Florida Bankruptcy Advisors, P.L.

Firm name

120 E. Oakland Park Blvd.

Suite 105

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Bar number & State